

HELP

for Crime Victims



*Crime can strike anyone, anytime.
Overcoming the physical injuries and
emotional pain of a violent crime takes
time – and it is harder to recover when
you face financial worries as well.*

Department of
**LABOR AND
INDUSTRIES**



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“Without this program, I would have been in debt for years. It took a lot of pressure off my family and me. We were able to just concentrate on getting better.”

— Jael Furnas-Komac

You may be eligible for the following benefits

- Payment of medical, dental and mental health counseling bills.
- Partial payment of lost wages.
- Partial payment of funeral costs.
- Limited pension payments if the crime prevents you from returning to work permanently.
- Limited pension payments to the spouse and/or dependent child of a deceased victim.
- Counseling for family members of sexual assault and homicide victims.

Help is available

The Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) Program can provide financial assistance to help you recover from the effects of a violent crime. If you have received physical or mental health injuries as the result of a criminal act, or you are a family member of a homicide victim, you may apply for benefits. The CVC Program does not pay for property crimes.

Program requirements

How do I know if I qualify for the program?

Generally, to qualify for benefits you must have:

Notified law enforcement of the crime within one year, or within one year of when a report could reasonably be made.

The crime must be a gross misdemeanor or felony.

Filed an application with the CVC Program within two years of the law enforcement report, or within two years of your 18th birthday if you were a minor at the time of the crime.

The CVC Program can make exceptions to the application deadline under certain circumstances. In these cases, application can be made within five years of reporting the crime.

Does the offender have to be identified or convicted of the crime before I qualify for benefits?

Most crimes covered by the CVC Program do not require that the offender be charged or convicted. Victims are required to cooperate with law enforcement in efforts to apprehend and convict the perpetrator of the crime.

The CVC Program is a small program within the Department of Labor and Industries. The Washington State Legislature and federal grants fund the program. Fines and fees assessed against criminal offenders also help support CVC programs across the country.

The CVC Program can pay benefits only to the extent that the Legislature has provided the funds for this purpose.

How do I apply?

Complete and sign an application form and mail it to the CVC Program at this address:

**Crime Victims Compensation Program
Department of Labor and Industries
PO Box 44520
Olympia WA 98504-4520**

Application forms are available on the web at CrimeVictims.LNI.wa.gov. Hospitals, medical providers, Department of Labor and Industries offices, and Victim/Witness offices also have application forms.

Once we receive your completed application, we will send you a notice in about 60 days. It will explain whether your claim has been allowed or denied. Depending on the circumstances surrounding the crime, you may be a victim but the law will require us to deny you benefits. If this occurs, you have the right to disagree to the decision and pursue a review.

If you disagree with the decision, you may protest in writing to the Crime Victims Compensation Program or the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals within 90 days.

Why do you ask for so much information on your application?

We need the information to determine if you are eligible for benefits. The amount of some benefits, such as time-loss compensation or pension, depends on whether you are married and how many dependents you have.

Be sure to completely fill out the application form and sign it. Incomplete information could delay any benefits you are eligible to receive.

If my claim is allowed what should I keep in mind?

- 1 The CVC Program is a “payer of last resort.” This means if you have any private or public insurance, you must use it and follow the rules of your insurance company. Please notify your provider and the CVC Program if you have any change in your insurance coverage.

- 2 Treatment for the accepted conditions under the claim is limited to procedures and services that are necessary, curative, available at the least costs, and consistent with accepted standards of care.
- 3 If you make any financial settlement or recovery as a result of the criminal act you must notify the CVC Program. Settlements include, but are not limited to, auto, home or life insurance payments. They also include proceeds from a lawsuit based on the crime. The law requires the CVC Program to be reimbursed in whole or in part for the benefits paid on the claim.
- 4 All benefits have a maximum dollar limit set by law.

I have medical insurance, and I didn't lose any time from work. Should I still apply for benefits?

Yes. You may qualify for permanent partial disability benefits that are not normally paid by other sources. Additionally, if at some point in the future you no longer have medical insurance, the CVC Program would be able to pay for treatment related to the crime.

How do I find out more about the program?

You can call 1-800-762-3716 and speak to one of our Customer Service Representatives or go to our web site at **CrimeVictims.LNI.wa.gov**. The web site also has a link to the laws and rules that govern the CVC Program.

Other contact information for the CVC Program

Fax number:

360-902-5333

TDD line:

360-902-4974

Interpreters available

Mailing address:

Crime Victims Compensation Program
Department of Labor and Industries
PO Box 44520
Olympia, WA 98504-4520



Victim Assistance Groups

Office of Crime Victims Advocacy

1-800-822-1067

Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-562-6025

Family and Friends Hotline

1-800-346-7555

Child Protective Services Hotline

1-800-562-5624

Victim Services Program

1-800-322-2201

Mothers Against Drunk Driving

1-800-927-6080

Note: Contact information for Victim/Witness Offices is available from the CVC Program.

Web site: CrimeVictims.LNI.wa.gov

Telephone: 1-800-762-3716

This pamphlet is a general guide. It is not intended to address specific cases or every possible situation.

This document is available in other formats to accommodate persons with disabilities. Call 360-902-5355 (TDD users, call 360-902-4974. Labor and Industries is an Equal Opportunity Employer.